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Subject: bay delta plan workshop today

April 24, 2012

SAVE THE DATES

2012 Proposed Phase 2 Bay-Delta Plan Workshops

August 22; September 5 & 6; October 1 & 21

1 These are proposed dates and subject to change based on the availability of selected expert panelists.

2 Phase 2 will examine whether changes are needed related to key issues identified in the 2009 Staff Report for the Periodic Review of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan (2009 Staff Report): (1) Delta outflow objectives, (2) export/inflow objectives, (3) Delta Cross Channel Gate closure objectives, (4) Suisun Marsh objectives; (5) potential new reverse flow objectives for Old and Middle Rivers; (6) potential new floodplain habitat flow objectives; (7) potential changes to the monitoring and special studies program, and (8) other potential changes to the program of implementation. The State Water Board will also consider other potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan that were not specifically addressed in the 2009 Staff Report, including issues that are identified through the scoping process. The State Water Board may also consider information that is produced as part of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) currently being developed.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is proposing a series of workshops to inform the Phase 2 comprehensive review and update of the Bay-Delta Plan². On January 24, 2012, a Notice of Preparation requesting comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the State Water Board's review of and potential modifications to the objectives contained in the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan was released.

The proposed workshops will be organized to facilitate expert scientific input on the selected topics. The information generated through the workshops will augment information developed through earlier reviews and will inform the State Water Board members and staff on what, if any, changes should be made to the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan. The proposed workshop topics include:

(1) Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone – including the effects of the low salinity zone on various estuarine species, the interaction of salinity with non-flow related factors, and the identification of modeling or other tools that can be used to measure and reasonably protect estuarine habitat (proposed for August);

(2) Salmonids – including flow, cold water pool, habitat, and water project operational constraints needed to reasonably protect Central Valley steelhead, Sacramento River winter-run, Central Valley spring-run, Central Valley fall-run, and Central Valley late fall-run Chinook salmon and the interaction of these issues with non-flow related factors (proposed for September);

(3) Pelagic Organisms – including flow, habitat, and water project operational constraints needed to reasonably protect pelagic species (including Delta smelt and longfin smelt) and the interaction of these issues with non-flow related factors (proposed for September); and Phase 2 Bay-Delta - 2 - April 24, 2012 Plan Update Workshops

(4) Analytical Tools for Evaluating the Water Supply, Hydrodynamic, and Hydropower Effects of the Bay-Delta Plan – including the CalSim II water supply model, DSM2 and RMA2 hydrodynamic models, Plexus hydropower model, and others as applicable, together with results from applying these models to various scenarios. This will be a two-day workshop, with one day focused on water supply models, scenarios and results and the other day focused on hydropower models, scenarios and results (proposed for October). A consultant for the State Water Board will organize and manage the workshops. Each workshop will include a panel of independent experts who will respond to technical questions concerning each topic. State Water Board staff and its consultants will develop key questions for each workshop topic. Time will be provided for interested persons to provide comments on the specific workshop topic after the conclusion of the panel presentations and responses. If you are interested in providing input on the organization of the workshops and potential questions to be considered, please email Bay-Delta@waterboards.ca.gov with your contact information.

Further information on the proposed workshops will be provided in the coming months. Please view the notice for the comprehensive review at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/environmental_review/docs/notice_baydeltaplancompreview.pdf .